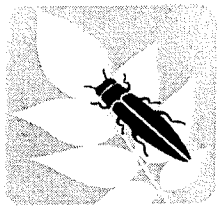
Commonly Asked Questions About the Emerald Ash Borer



Emerald Ash Borer

1. Where did the emerald ash borer come from? The natural range of Agrilus planipennis, or the emerald ash borer, is eastern Russia, northern China, Japan, and Korea. Before June of 2002, it had never been found in North America.

2. How did it get here? We don't know for sure, but it most likely came in ash wood used for stabilizing cargo in ships or for packing or crating heavy consumer products.

3. What types of trees does the emerald ash borer attack? In Michigan it has only been found in ash trees. Trees in woodlots as well as landscaped areas are affected. For the most part, affected trees or branches appear to be at least 2 inches in diameter and larger. All species of North American ash appear to be susceptible.

4. Where has it been found? To date, the core infestation is in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Washtenaw, Wayne, Jackson, Genesee, Ingham and Lapeer counties. Emerald ash borer has also been found in a few isolated locations in St. Clair, Shiawassee and Lenawee counties. There are also outlying infestations throughout the lower peninsula of the state. This means it is important to watch for new infestations outside of the core area, or even in other parts of the state where people may have accidentally transported infested ash as firewood.

5. What happens to infested ash trees? The canopy of infested trees begins to thin above infested portions of the trunk and major branches because the borer destroys the water and nutrient conducting tissues under the bark. Heavily infested trees exhibit canopy die-back usually starting at the top of the tree. One-third to one-half of the branches may die in one year. Most of the canopy will be dead within 2 years of when symptoms are first observed. Sometimes ash trees push out sprouts from the trunk after the upper portions of the tree dies. Although difficult to see, the adult beetles leave a "D"-shaped exit hole in the bark, roughly 1/8 inch in diameter, when they emerge in June.

6. What do emerald ash borers look like? The adult beetle is dark metallic green in color, 1/2 inch-long and 1/8 inch-wide.

7. What is the life cycle of this borer? The beetle may have a one- to two-year life cycle. Adults begin emerging in late May to early June with peak emergence in early July. Egg-laying occurs soon after adult emergence. After hatching, the borer goes through several larval stages in July, August and September, when it tunnels under the bark and damages the tree. It overwinters as a larva in the sap wood or bark and pupates in late spring.

8. How is this pest spread? The ash borer can be spread through movement of infested trees or in logs and firewood. It is critical not to move infested ash logs outside of the infested area. The beetles also fly well. Most of the beetles will deposit eggs within a quarter mile from where they emerge.

9. How long has the emerald ash borer been in Michigan? No one knows for sure. Experts feel that it may have been in the Detroit area five years or longer, based on the first reports of ash trees dying. The initial infestation probably started from a small number of beetles. Most likely the population of beetles built-up for several years before ash trees began to die. The absence of tree resistance to these borers and the lack of natural enemies have allowed the population to explode the past few years.

10. Does it only attack dying or stressed trees? Healthy ash trees are also susceptible and may die within 1 – 3 years of becoming infested, unless they are treated with insecticides each year to ***prevent*** borer attack.

11. What is being done on a statewide basis about this new pest? The agencies listed below are working together to educate Michigan citizens about detecting the emerald ash borer, how to protect valuable trees, when it is too late to save trees, and where trees can be taken for disposal. We have started an intensive survey and detection program as the first step of a plan to contain the infestation. We are also conducting research on which insecticides work best, how to detect beetles early, the potential use of Bt products for aerial application, use of girdled trees for detection and management, and the basic biology, natural enemies, and origin of the beetles.

12. Who do I call to get more information on the Emerald Ash Borer or to report an infested tree? Contact local offices of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan State University Extension or the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. You may also contact the Emerald Ash Borer Hotline toll-free at 1-866-325-0023. More information is available at the following web sites:
www.emeraldashborer.info
www.michigan.gov/mda (key word - *emerald ash borer*)

Michigan State University
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
USDA - Forest Service

Michigan Department of Agriculture
USDA-APHIS

This fact sheet was updated by Dr. David Smitley and Dr. Deborah McCullough,
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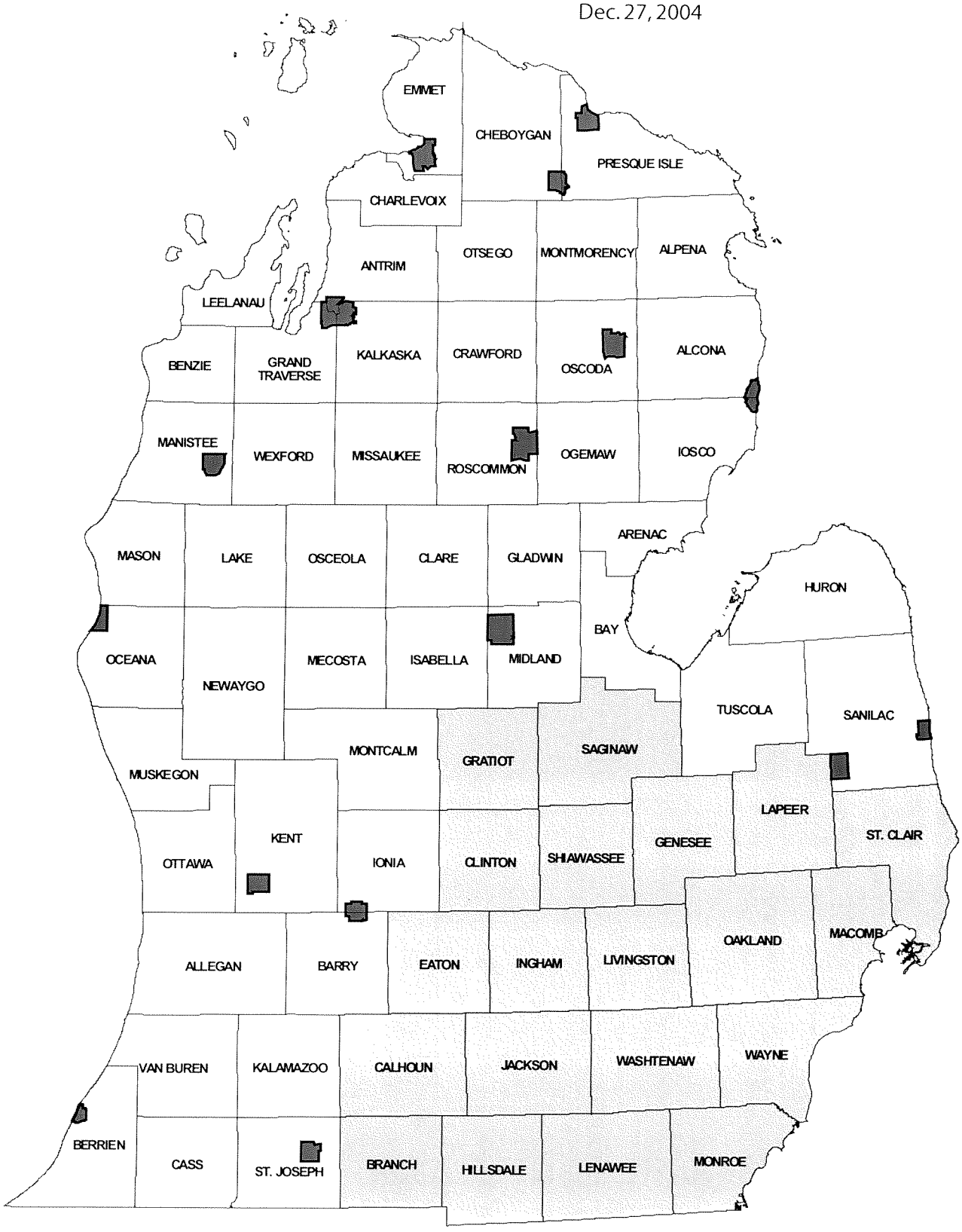
Emerald Ash Borer Quarantined Counties and Outliers

Dec. 27, 2004



EAB Quarantined Counties

EAB Quarantined Outliers

For more EAB info, go to www.michigan.gov/eab